



NH Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families

**DCYF Overview
March 6, 2015**

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What is DCYF ?

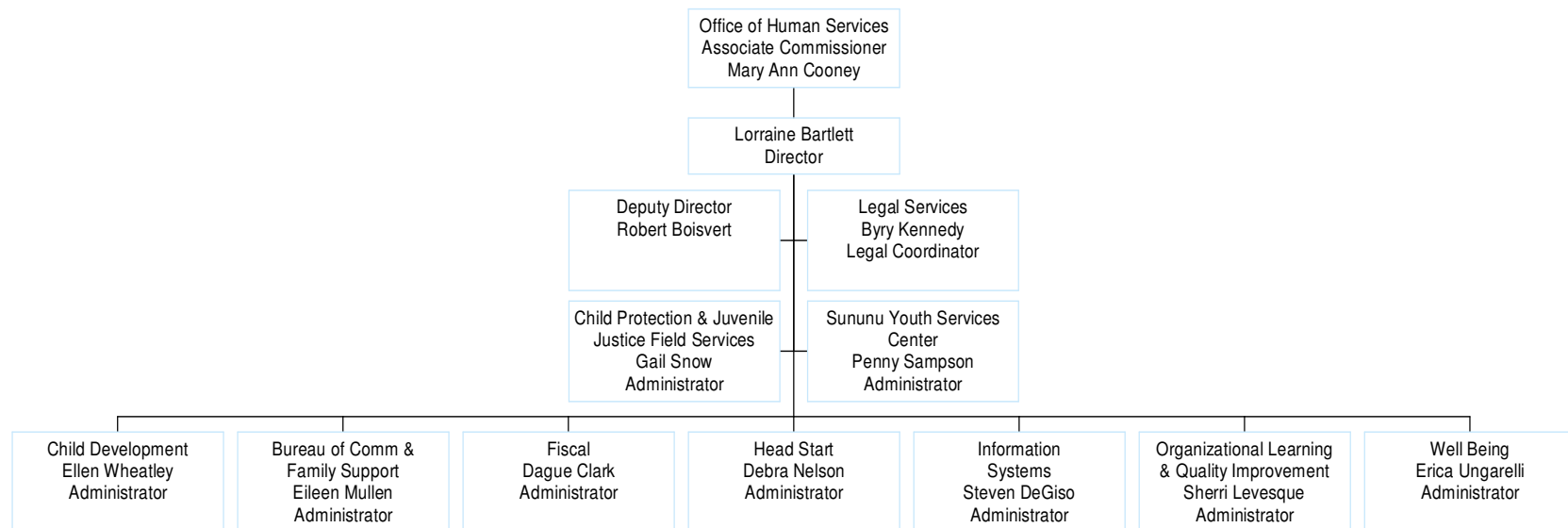
DCYF is a division within the Department of Health & Human Services that is mandated to assure the safety of children, youth and communities through the provision of services and supports to children, youth and their families.

Mission Statement

We are dedicated to assisting families in the protection, development, permanency, and well-being of their children and the communities in which they live.



DCYF Organizational Structure





NH's Child Welfare Structure

Three years ago two divisions in New Hampshire shared statutory and practice responsibility for the safety, permanency and well-being of the state's children and youth.

- The New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and the Division for Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS).
- In 2012, HB-349 authorized the Department to combine the Divisions.

Juvenile Justice Field Services & Sununu Youth Services Center are now Bureaus within DCYF



Field Services: Target Populations

- Children and Youth who have been determined to have been abused and/or neglected (RSA-169-C).
- Children in Need of Services (CHINS – RSA 169:D).
- Delinquents (RSA-169:B).
- Families of children/youth that have been abused and/or neglected or whose children/youth are adjudicated CHINS or delinquents.
- Children/Youth subject to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children or the Interstate Compact for Juveniles.



DCYF has invested in workforce development and evidence based practices to better meet the needs of those we serve by:

- Developing a model of practice that informs and guides the decisions of agency staff
- Trained Juvenile Justice and Child Protection staff in Solution Based Casework
- Moved toward Trauma-Informed and Restorative Justice Practices
- Creation of Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)
- Development of New Hampshire Integrated Assessment
- Began Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Practice



Agency Practice Model Beliefs:

- Everyone deserves to be safe
- All children and youth need and deserve permanency
- Everyone needs and deserves a life of well-being
- Everyone deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect
- Prevention reduces child abuse, neglect and delinquency and promotes safety for children, youth, families and communities
- All children, youth and families have strengths
- All children and youth belong with family

DCYF– Core Values



- Staff have the knowledge, skills and ability to effectively join with and engage families.
- Accountability, follow through and responsibility.
- Policy and practice link to the agency mission and DCYF beliefs, principles and theories (DCYF as a whole).
- Supervision is key to promoting long term safety, well being and permanency for children.
- There is **shared vision and responsibility at all levels of the organization (TEAM).**



Accountabilities



Child Protection & Juvenile Justice

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have timely permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for families.

Family and Child Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.



DCYF Field Services

Child Protection & Juvenile Justice Services

What we do

- Assess SAFETY first
 - Family & Community
- Engage youth & families
- Develop plans with families that assure safety & achieve family stability
- Establish connections
- Focus on permanency

How we do it

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Respect diversity
- Maintain professional standards of conduct & adherence to Code of Ethics

DCYF Central Intake



Central Intake takes all reports of Abuse/Neglect and requests for a voluntary CHINS case for the entire state.

In New Hampshire, RSA 169-C:29 provides for the mandatory reporting of all ***suspected*** abuse or neglect of children.

As a New Hampshire citizen you are a mandatory reporter.

Call 1-800-894-5533 to report Abuse/Neglect



Child Protection

- Meet with family and all household members.
- Interview child victim.
- Make collateral contacts.
- Make informed determination in consultation with a supervisor regarding safety of child and potential risk of harm.





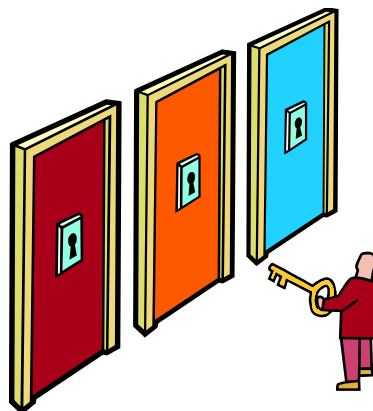
Child Protection

Unfounded

- allegations not substantiated
- family may be referred to community services for support

Founded

- allegations substantiated
- Family services provided to ensure continued safety and well being of child



Juvenile Justice Services

Business Operations



Reintegration of Youth into Families and Communities:

- Reduce the number of youth in out-of-home placements.
- Promote successful transitions back to families and communities.
- Provide cost-effective and appropriate interventions to rehabilitate juvenile offenders and CHINS.

Community Safety

- Communities at less risk after offending juveniles have participated in the juvenile justice system.

Restoration

- Repair the harm caused by misconduct through restitution and community service.

Interstate Compact on Juveniles

- Management, monitoring and supervision of juveniles on probation or parole.



Juvenile Justice Services

Probation and Parole:

- Provides services and supports in CHINS Voluntary Services Cases.
- Conducts investigations and provides supervision of court involved Delinquent minors and Children In Need of Services (CHINS).
- Supervises committed delinquents released from the Youth Services Center on parole.

Institutional Services:

- Sununu Youth Services Center and the Youth Detention Services unit provides secure residential treatment placements for NH youth involved with the NH court system.

Juvenile Justice Field Services



Juvenile Justice Services Probation & Parole Officers are charged with:

- Promoting youth's acceptance of personal responsibility for delinquent acts.
- Encouraging the youth to understand and appreciate the personal consequences of such acts.
- Providing the youth with the treatment, care, guidance, counseling, discipline, supervision, and rehabilitation necessary to assist them in becoming a responsible and productive member of society.





SUNUNU YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

Once involved in the juvenile court system there are different pathways for juveniles. Whereas some juveniles are released directly back into the community to undergo community-based rehabilitative programs, some juveniles may pose a greater threat to society and to themselves and therefore are in need of a stay in a more secure setting.

Over the past three years we have worked to build a shared philosophy that at it's core, SYSC is a rehabilitative treatment institution, for youth.

Sununu Youth Services Center



Generally speaking, secure detention is reserved for juveniles considered to be a threat to public safety, though in many cases, youths are held for violating a court order. Court orders that where initial efforts to maintain a youth in a less restrictive setting.

- 2013 Legislative Audit and recent Federal Reviews determined that in New Hampshire, children and youth are placed in least restrictive settings.
- As part of a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), each juvenile detention decision in New Hampshire is *guided* and determined by a risk assessment instrument. Secure detention may not be ordered unless the Risk Assessment Instrument has been completed.

There has been a significant shift in philosophy and practice statewide, that less restrictive is the approach that drives all placement decisions.

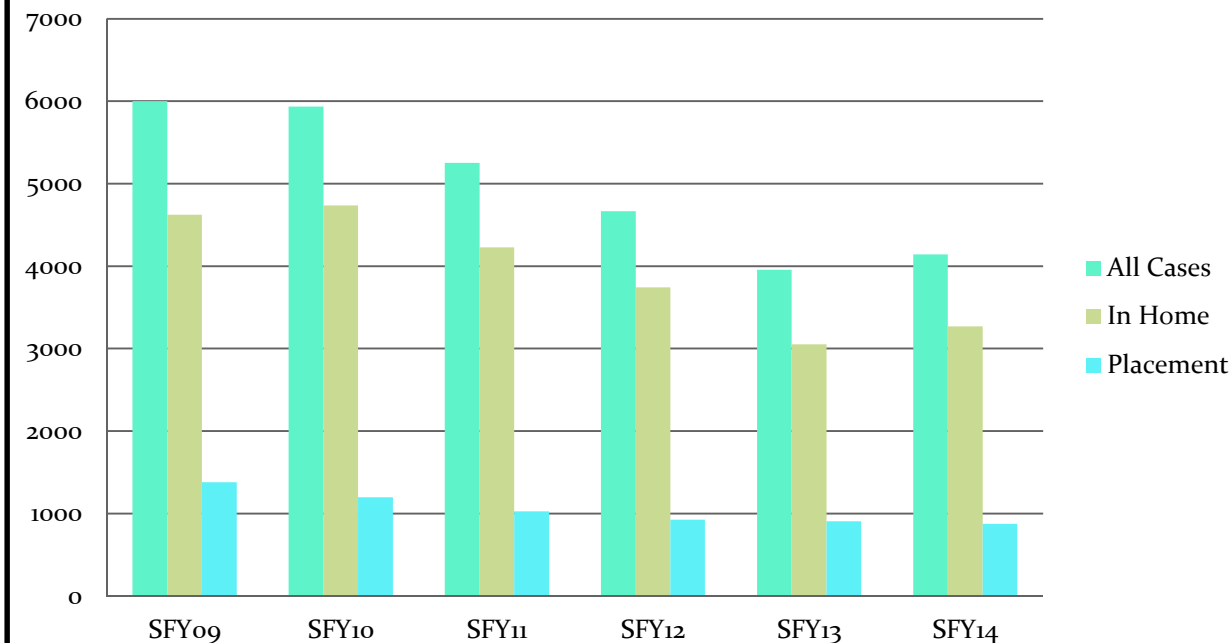


Agency Shared Responsibilities

- Engage families in identifying their strengths/needs.
- Develop solution based plans with families to identify services, supports & resources that assure safety & achieve family objectives.
- Maintains children/youth at home when this does not compromise their safety or that of the community.
- Focus on reunification as primary permanency goal if child has been removed.
- Utilize concurrent planning with families to identify other permanency options when child cannot be returned home.
- Ensures that interstate placements are made into safe and nurturing environments, and that the children & families involved are fully supported for the duration of their placement.

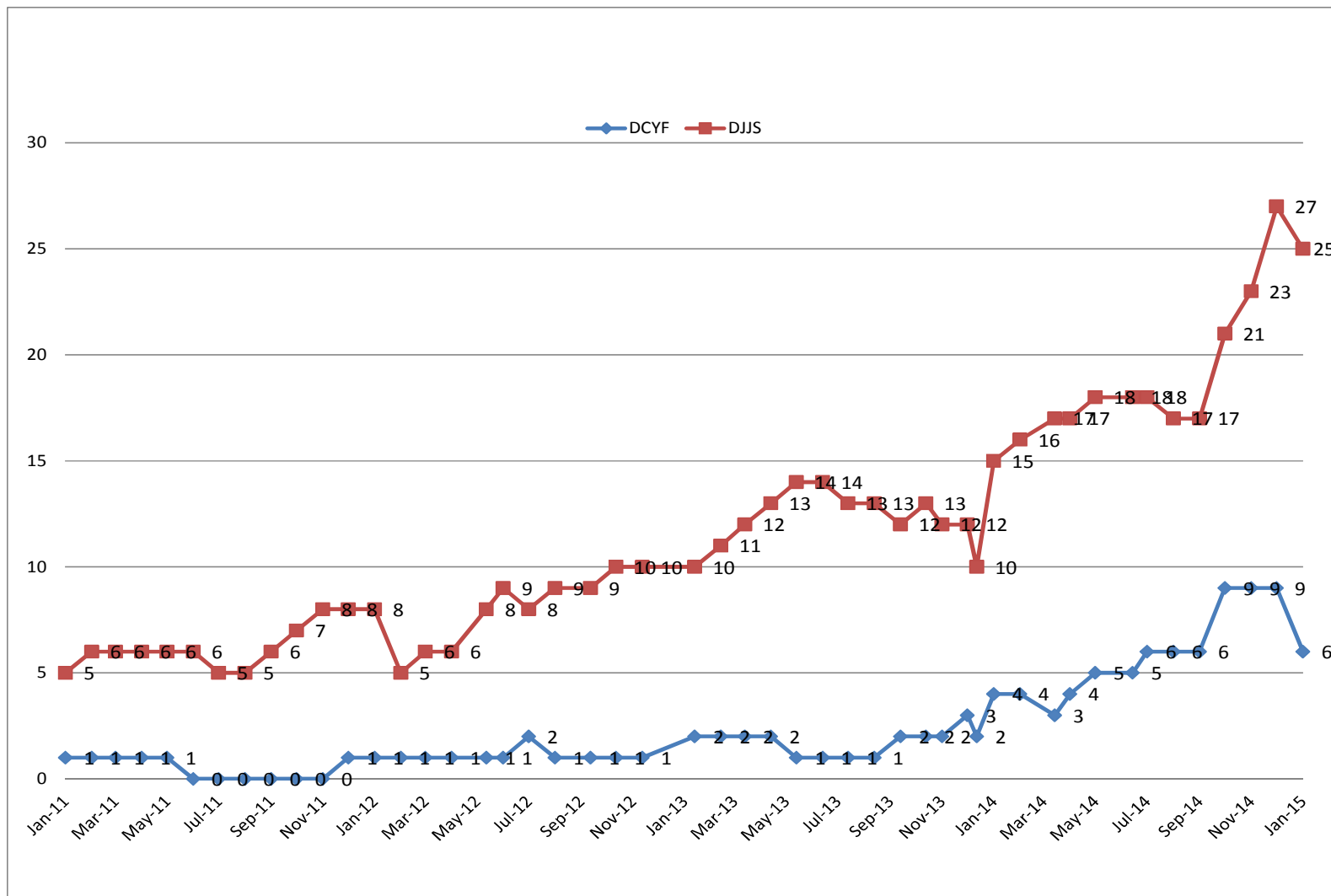


Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Workload



There is a substantial research and evidence-base to practices and treatments provided directly by DCYF, as well as by purchased and preventative service providers. An examination of service utilization and costs indicates that DCYF more frequently provides to youth in-home rather than in placement, and that the number of youth in costly residential placements has steadily declined.

DCYF OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENTS





5 year plan for IMPROVED OUTCOMES

Solution
Based
Casework

Restorative
Justice

Trauma-
Informed
Practice

C
Q
I

C
Q
I

PREVENTION

SAFETY

PERMANENCY

WELL-BEING

FAMILY
STRENGTHS

BELONG
WITH FAMILY

DESERVE
COURTESY &
RESPECT

DCYF's PRACTICE MODEL



Results of Shared Practice Improvement Initiatives



- Greatest opportunity for assessing best outcomes
- Leverages entire organization to focus on meeting needs of the children, youth and their family
- Coordinated service utilization
- Cost sharing
- Cost containment



Point of Contact

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